

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /117 W

----- 000333

R 201221Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5842

SECDEF

INFO CINCPAC

CINCSAC, OMAHA

8TH AF, ANDERSON AFB, GUAM

USSAG/7TH, NKP

CINCPACAF

13TH AF, CLARK AFB

13TH ADVON, UDORN

CONSULATE UDORN 1359

COMUSMACTHAI

COMMANDER, 635TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP, UTAPAO

COMMANDER, 17TH AIR DIVISION, UTAPAO

COMMANDER, 388TH TFW, KORAT

COMMANDER, 354TH TFW, KORAT

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12975

SUBJ: PRESS VISITS TO UTAPAO AND KORAT OF AUG. 15

TAGS: PFOR, TH

REF : MACHTHAI'S O 151600Z AUG 73.

MACTHAI'S O 151546Z AUG 73

1. RTG APPROVAL FOR AUG. 15 PRESS VISITS TO UTAPAO AND KORAT WAS RECEIVED, AFTER CONSIDERABLE PRODDING FROM THE EMBASSY, ONLY AT 1400 AUG. 13. THIS GAVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE 72 HOURS THEY HAD REQUESTED FOR MAKING ARRANGEMENTS AND NOTIFYING SOME 30 NEWS ORGANIZATIONS SCATTERED AROUND ASIA.

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NONETHELESS THE TWO VISITS WERE WELL-ORGANIZED, WELL RECEIVED

BY THE PRESS, AND FAITHFUL TO CURRENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE.

2. WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT LT. COL. B.A. WHITAKER, MACHTAI PAO (SHELL HOUSE) AND MAJ. LEONARD KACHER, FORMER 13TH AF ADVON MLO AND NOW 635TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION OFFICER, WERE AVAILABLE TO PLAY KEY ROLES IN THESE PROGRAMS. THESE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN COPING WITH THE UNIQUE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF THAILAND BASES FOR OVER A YEAR AND HAVE A KEEN GRASP BOTH OF HOST GOVERNMENT SENSITIVITIES AND OF THE PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZING THESE MEDIA VISITS. THESE TWO OFFICERS, WITH THE ABLE SUPPORT OF LT. COL. ART MATHISON, THE MACTHAI PAO, PLAYED THE MAJOR ROLES IN SHAPING THESE SUCCESSFUL AUGUST 15 VISITS.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING COMMANDERS AND THEIR OFFICERS AND AIRMEN FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT WHAT FOR THEM MIGHT HAVE SEEMED A RATHER TRYING ASSIGNMENTS. CERTAINLY THEY DESERVE GREAT CREDIT FOR THE FACT THINGS WENT SO WELL:

BRIG. GEN. BILLY J. ELLIS, COMMANDER, 17TH AIR DIVISION
COL. ROGER BROOKS, COMMANDER, 635TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP
COL. ROBERT CROUCH, COMMANDER, 388TH TFW
COL. THOMAS NORMILE, VICE COMMANDER, 388TH TFW
CAPT. GENE SANDS, IO, 388 TFW

4. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE A-7, F-4, AND B-52 CREWS AND THE ABCCC CREW WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERVIEW WITH THE WORLD MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.
UNGER

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